

# MRS. HALL'S COUNSEL MOVES TO FORCE STATE TO REVEAL MURDER EVIDENCE

"Mrs. Hall Is Innocent!"



MRS. LOUISE GEIST RIEHL (above) has determined to defend her former mistress, Mrs. Frances Stevens Hall, who is in jail charged with murdering her husband, Rev. E. W. Hall, and Mrs. Eleanor Mills. The case was reopened when Mrs. Riehl's husband asked to have his marriage annulled because his wife was shielding a murderer. (Photo Graphic.)

Writ Is Sought;  
Witness Locked Up;  
Others Grilled

By GRAPHIC Staff Correspondent

SOMERVILLE, N. J., July 30.—A move by counsel for Mrs. Frances Stevens Hall which will force the state to reveal at least part of the evidence on which it is holding her as the murderer of her husband, Rev. Edward W. Hall, and his paramour, Mrs. Eleanor Mills, is expected within forty-eight hours as the re-opened investigation into the four-year-old tragedy gathered additional impetus today.

This move, an application by former Attorney General Robert H. McCarter, chief of Mrs. Hall's expensive legal staff, for his client's release on a writ of habeas corpus, will be made possible because of the apparent inability of Somerset County Prosecutor Bergen to call together the April grand jury.

Grand Jurors Away

Justice Parker of the Supreme Court, who must issue the call for the jury, is on vacation in Maine and members of the jury itself, including Foreman Carelton P. Hoagland, are summering in far-off places, some of them in California.

It is known that Prosecutor Bergen would prefer to wait until the September term, in order that he may co-ordinate and develop his evidence, and also that he will fight any move to free the prisoner, believing witnesses may talk more freely when she is in jail than were she at liberty.

With one witness, William Phillips, former night watchman at the New Jersey State College for Women, which adjoins the Hall home, already jailed in default of \$5,000 bail as a material witness, the arrest of still others is believed imminent today.

Holds Himself Ready

Henry De la Bruyere Carpender, wealthy broker cousin of the stoic widow, is reported to have held himself in readiness for arrest at his home until 2 o'clock this morning and there are persistent rumors that Willie Stevens, Mrs. Hall's brother, who is staying with relatives, will also be taken into custody.

As state troopers filed out of headquarters in the Waldorf Hotel this morning, presumably to continue their efforts to round up new witnesses, it was reported that before noon officials of the state police, Prosecutor Bergen, and other investigators would grill those already in custody or known to the officials.

Among these are Mr. and Mrs. Henry Carpender, Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Carpender, Barbara Tough and Louise Geist, former servants in the Hall home, and Peter Tumulty, former chauffeur for Mrs. Hall and now a gardener for her cousin, Henry Carpender.

Important New Witness.

At the same time it was said that an important witness had been found who, partially at least, corroborates the story told by Mrs. Jane Gibson, the "pig woman."

Mrs. Gibson had said that on the night of the murder she was on the alert, looking for thieves who for the past two months had been rifling her barn of corn and other fodder.

She said that shortly before midnight she saw a junk cart turn down the lane past her home towards Easton Avenue, and that,

(Continued on Page 4)

"Mrs. Hall Is Guilty!"



MRS. JANE GIBSON (above), known as the "pig woman," repeated the charges she made four years ago against Mrs. Frances Stevens Hall to Prosecutor Francis Bergen of Somerset county, declaring that Mrs. Hall had been involved in the slaying of her husband, Dr. E. W. Hall, and Mrs. Eleanor Mills. Mrs. Gibson is shown with the Jenny mule she rode when she discovered the bodies. (Photo Graphic.)

## Barbara Tough Denies Story of Hall's Ex-Maid

NEW BRUNSWICK, N. J., July 30.—Branding Louise Geist, former parlor maid in the Hall menage, as a "great little talker," Barbara Tough, who worked for the Halls four years ago, today told her story, of what occurred the night of the double murder.

Barbara, a dowdy, middle-aged woman, denied Miss Geist's accusation that she had telephoned Mrs. Hall that the clergyman and



Barbara Tough

Mrs. Mills were holding tryst on the Phillips farm. "The afternoon of the shooting," Barbara continued, "I left the Hall home about 2.30 o'clock, going to the Parker home to visit a friend of mine, Lizzie Anthony."

"With Lizzie, her husband, and a friend, I went riding. About 8.30, passing the Hall home, I decided it was too early to enter. We parked the car and sat talking for a while on Clifton Ave., just beyond the Hall place."

"At 10 o'clock I entered, saw a light burning in the library, where I presumed Mr. and Mrs. Hall were reading. I went to bed. Next morning Louise came to me excitedly and told me Mr. Hall had not returned."

"The madam doesn't know where he is," she exclaimed.

Miss Tough said positively that until the morning after the tragedy she did not know what had happened.

## SLUMP IN PRICES MAY BANKRUPT FARMERS

WASHINGTON, July 30 (By U. P.).—Farmers are faced with a new price depression of agricultural products that threatens to send many tillers of the soil into bankruptcy this year.

## Arrest of Widow Called "Outrage" By Lawyer

Robert H. McCarter, chief attorney for Mrs. Frances Stevens Hall, today demanded the reason why his client had been arrested at midnight and taken to Somerset county jail at 2 o'clock in the morning, thirteen hours after the warrant had been obtained.

"That was an outrage," McCarter said. "It was unnecessary and uncalled for. My client would not run away from any investigation."

## Soaring Motors Aid Poor Rich Man

The great fortune of William C. Durant, who is called one of the



W. C. Durant

most successful and spectacular stock market operators of modern times, was swelled by \$1,500,000 when shares of the General Motors Corporation soared 12 points to a record of \$191.

In this one stock Mr. Durant has, it is said, made \$20,000,000 in the last year.

## Slain Rector's Kin Sorry for Plight Of Mrs. Hall

Mrs. Frances Hall, who was arrested for the murder of her husband, Rev. Edward W. Hall, and Mrs. Eleanor Mills, his love mate, has the sympathy of the entire Hall family, Frank D. Vorhees of 85 Givford Ave., Jersey City, brother-in-law of the slain minister, said today.

When questioned concerning the re-opening of the four-year-old murder case Mr. Vorhees said he knew nothing about the case except what he had read in the newspapers.



James Mills

Mills made this declaration today in his little apartment in the cheap frame house at 49 Carmen St., New Brunswick, where he has made a home for his son and his daughter, Charlotte, since the death of their mother.

"I do not believe Mrs. Hall did it," Mills finally admitted, after he had been told not to talk, "but I am sure that she knows something more about those who did commit the murder than she has yet told."

Mills made this statement on the sensational slaying which robbed him of his wife.

He told a reporter from The GRAPHIC that little friendship existed between himself and Mrs. Hall. He said that frequently he had seen Mrs. Hall on the street and she had passed him by without taking any notice of him.

The \$20-a-month sexton in the Rev. Hall's church said he had been making some flower boxes for Mrs. Hall's home when he was informed of the crime.

## U. S. Exports Fall By \$600,000,000

WASHINGTON, July 30 (By U. P.).—The United States this year is losing \$600,000,000 in her sales in foreign markets—one-eighth of last year's total if the last nine months of 1926 register decreases under 1925 figures similar to the statistics for the first three months, given out today by Secretary of Commerce Hoover.

## Harris to Fire Six More Men

The largest number of inspectors in the food division of the city's



Dr. L. I. Harris

Department of Health to be suspended at one time are slated for the ax within a day or two.

Commissioner of Health Louis I. Harris announces that six more employees will be dispensed with as a result of a wholesale probe.

To date twenty-two men have been fired.